

611 Commerce St. #2800
Nashville, TN 37203



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO.
2906

Success Lasts a Lifetime. www.jobcorpsregion3.com

Job Corps SuccessLine is a newsletter published by Region III Job Corps. To comment on the newsletter, submit a story idea, or update your mailing address, please write: McNeely Pigott & Fox, 611 Commerce St., Suite 2800, Nashville, TN 37203; or call (800) 818-6953.

Job Corps: A Great Place To Start A Future

In just a year and a half, Erica Carrouthers has earned her GED, received national certification in phlebotomy, graduated from Job Corps and completed a semester at a Memphis, Tenn., community college. Her future is promising, thanks to the skills and training she received at Job Corps.

Carrouthers joined the Memphis Job Corps Center in September 2001 after dropping out of an Atlanta high school during her junior year. Job Corps was her chance to get back on track and do something meaningful with her life.

"My main reason for joining Job Corps was to get my GED," Carrouthers said. "When I arrived, the program was better than I expected, and I decided to train in the medical field and get my GED."

When she first arrived, Carrouthers, as do all students in Job Corps, visited several trade areas to determine which one was best suited for her. She originally chose to train in the medical office support trade but changed to phlebotomy after meeting the instructor.

"My phlebotomy instructor, Regina Morris, made the class fun and exciting," Carrouthers said. "We weren't stuck sitting at our desks all day because our lessons were hands-on. The training gave me a good impression about what the job would be like—working and interacting with people."

The positive work environment in phlebotomy class kept Carrouthers focused on achieving her goals. She completed both the phlebotomy and advanced phlebotomy trades and scored a 91 percent on the national certification test for phlebotomy. In addition to earning her GED, she graduated from the Memphis center in just seven months.

After graduating in April 2002, she began classes at Southwest Tennessee Community College (SWTCC) in the medical lab technician field. Now into her second semester, Carrouthers maintains a busy class schedule that includes psychology, oral communications, algebra, volleyball and medical lab technician training. She also works 40 hours a week at the Memphis Pathology Lab.

But it doesn't stop there, according to Carrouthers.

"When I finish my two years at SWTCC, I want to go on to a four-year college and advance my training in the medical lab technician field," she said.

Carrouthers has not only made huge strides toward her career goals in the past 18 months, but she is building a successful future for herself with the foundation she received at Job Corps.



Memphis JCC students practice medical techniques as part of the center's phlebotomy trade.

JOB CORPS

SUCCESSLINE

REGION
III

VOL. 9 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2003



SIATech Leads Students to Diplomas

"Atlanta Job Corps Center has had its doors open since 1969, but I have never been more proud of our high school diploma program than I am right now," said Annie Matthews, center director at Atlanta Job Corps Center.

Matthews' pride is due in part to the opening of a charter school on Atlanta JCC's campus – the School for Integrated Academics & Technologies, or SIATech. The Atlanta school is the 10th SIATech campus in the country, each one operated at a Job Corps center. The charter school provides students at Atlanta JCC the opportunity to complete their high school studies in a classroom-based, high-technology setting.

"Most of our students think the possibility of receiving a high school diploma is out of reach for them. They think the opportunity has passed them by, so they value the chance to study for it," said Glenda Alexander, site leader at SIATech in Atlanta. "Our students are extremely motivated and self-disciplined."

What is a charter school?

Charter schools are board-approved public schools funded by taxes. They are allowed to use flexible teaching methods in exchange for being bound to a charter which holds them accountable for meeting academic performance standards or other objectives.

SIATech follows the Atlanta Public School System guidelines and requires students to pass the state of Georgia's high school diploma exam to receive a diploma of their own. Much of the learning is project-based, with a comprehensive senior project being part of the requirement for graduation. The school focuses on technology and uses computer-assisted programs to teach curriculum, forcing students to learn high-end software packages.

"Our students graduate with not only a diploma, but also a good knowledge of entry-level technology," said Linda Dawson, deputy superintendent at SIATech's home office in California. "We believe it is important for people to learn practical skills – skills they can use in the future. Our hope is that the technology base we provide for our students will set them apart and increase their employability skills."

About 230 of Atlanta JCC's 500 students are enrolled in the SIATech program. They spend part of the day in vocational training on center and part of the day studying for their high school diplomas at the SIATech facility.

"The feedback we get from employers is that they want students who have a high school diploma, and we find we can place them in higher paying jobs when they have a diploma," Matthews said. "My students are very bright and deserve the best. I believe SIATech offers them the chance to achieve their goals."

SIATech, an affiliate of Guajome Park Academy, Inc., has established charter schools at three other Job Corps centers in Region III – Gainesville Job Corps Center in Gainesville, Fla.; Homestead Job Corps Center in Homestead, Fla.; and Miami Job Corps Center in Miami, Fla.

www.jobcorpsregion3.com



ALABAMA

Gadsden Students Raise Funds for United Way

Gadsden JCC students and staff joined efforts for the center's second annual United Way fund-raiser. The event began with a donation contest between dormitory wings and concluded with games, a silent auction and a talent show. The center raised more than \$500 for United Way.

Gadsden Promotes Tobacco Use Prevention

To promote the Tobacco Use Prevention Program, Gadsden JCC joined in a partnership with the Etowah Coalition Against Tobacco (ECAT). The committee meets monthly and is planning projects to benefit students at Gadsden JCC and the local public school system.

Montgomery Students Build Movie Set

Columbia Pictures held an employment open house at Montgomery JCC for its upcoming film "Big Fish." Nineteen students were selected to help build sets for the movie. Wendy Pearce, a Montgomery JCC student, is currently employed by Columbia Pictures as the lead carpenter assistant and is being considered as the personal assistant to the foreman of Columbia Pictures.

FLORIDA

Jacksonville BAM Students Involved in Local Play

Five students from Gainesville JCC's Building and Apartment Maintenance (BAM) program volunteered to help with stage productions for the local play "A Soldier's Story," by Charles Fuller. For the effort, the center was given 80 tickets to the play for students and staff to attend.

Gainesville JCC Committed To Clean

Gainesville JCC adopted the highway directly in front of the center and committed to removing litter and debris from the two-mile area quarterly.

Homestead Scholar Speaks at Convention

Homestead JCC student Dennis Robinson, the 2001 Federation of Government Information Processing Council/Industry Advisory Council IT (FGIPC/IAC) scholarship winner for Region III, was chosen by National Director Richard Trigg to speak at the FGIPC/IAC convention in Hershey, Pa. The IT scholarship is intended to provide Job Corps students and graduates the opportunity to pursue a certificate or degree in the IT field and careers in the industry.

Jacksonville Students Make a Difference

Jacksonville JCC students participated in "Make a Difference Day." Students volunteered at a nursing home, the zoo and a neighborhood cleanup along with the city's sheriff and district councilmember. Students also helped a women's club archive its history. A TV news station featured Jacksonville JCC for donating items to foster children.

Jacksonville Promotes Staying Substance-free

Students observed "Red Ribbon Week" and participated in rap, essay, poem and poster contests that focused on remaining substance-free. Javonda Williams, previous winner of *Seventeen* Magazine's Peak Performance Contest, talked with students about overcoming the struggles of growing up with parents addicted to cocaine.

Miami JCC Takes a Stand Against Illiteracy

Miami JCC initiated a relationship with the World Literacy Crusade, a national non-profit organization established in 1922 by community leaders concerned about the growing rate of illiteracy and related social ills. Through this relationship, an internship will be created for a Miami JCC student to assist with clerical duties and classroom activities.

Miami Students Volunteer To Make a Difference

More than 90 Miami JCC students and staff participated in "Make a Difference Day" activities. Students worked with the Children's Home Society, Shake-a-Leg Foundation, South Florida Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the YWCA.

GEORGIA

Author Visits Atlanta JCC

Tina McElroy Ansa, author of *Baby in the Family* and several other books, visited Atlanta JCC. She read from her new book, *You Know Better*, and discussed its themes. Ansa donated 100 copies of her book to the center director's book club.

Atlanta Students Are Making a Difference

Students from every trade participated in community activities on "Make a Difference Day." Students spread 60 bags of pine bark on the landscape of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. Students and staff volunteered at Village Atlanta/My Sister's House, a non-profit organization providing services to underprivileged families. Students and staff also collected clothing, household items, toys and books to present to the American Kidney Fund. The items were sold, and proceeds were donated to kidney patients.

Brunswick JCC Is Keeping Town Beautiful

Brunswick JCC was awarded the Education Award at the annual Keep Brunswick - Golden Isles Beautiful Community Appreciation Breakfast. The breakfast was held on St. Simons Island as an appreciation for those who have joined in the organization's mission: to create a clean and beautiful community through citizen involvement and education.

Brunswick Culinary Students Serve for the Heart

Brunswick JCC Culinary Arts students prepared and served meals to about 50 community members for the American Heart Walk 2002 kick-off luncheon. The luncheon was held in downtown Brunswick at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Turner Students Feed Those in Need

Turner JCC joined with the Community Action Agency of Moultrie, Ga., and the Neighborhood Service Center to

distribute USDA foods to the elderly, handicapped and less fortunate. More than 2,000 citizens in Dougherty County were served USDA foods within three days of the food drive.

Turner Center Supports Albany Redevelopment

A group of Turner JCC students cleaned an area along the Flint River in Albany. The riverfront cleanup, a project coordinated by the Albany Audubon Society, is an effort to clear the way for green space and a walking trail proposed as a part of downtown Albany's redevelopment program.

MISSISSIPPI

Batesville JCC Supports 'Red Ribbon Week'

Students and staff participated in national "Red Ribbon Week" with "Decoration Day" and "Sock It to Drugs Day." Student employees who rallied the most people to wear unusual socks and red ribbons received a free meal. Marquis Powell, prevention specialist, spoke about tobacco use prevention, abstinence and sexually transmitted diseases.

Gulfport Student Excels with NASA

After receiving her GED and completing her training in Office and Business Technology, trainee Roshana Collier was given the opportunity to complete her work-based learning at the John C. Stennis Space Center (NASA). After completing her assignment, Collier was given an extended internship with NASA.

Gulfport JCC Celebrates Latino Heritage Month

Gulfport JCC students and staff celebrated National Latino Heritage Month with a program featuring speaker Ruben Diaz Gonzales, a provider education relations representative with Humana Healthcare Services at Keesler Air Force Base.

Mississippi JCC Joins 'Make a Difference Day'

Mayor Walter Rielley kicked off "Make a Difference Day" at Mississippi JCC. Students participated by doing community improvement and beautification projects, as well as helping the sick and elderly.

NORTH CAROLINA

Kittrell JCC Raises Money for Charity

The Kittrell JCC Community Relations Committee held a bake sale and raffle to benefit local charities, raising more than \$150.

Kittrell JCC Makes a Difference

Kittrell JCC participated in "Make a Difference Day." Staff and students contributed to "Clean Sweep" North Carolina and did roadside cleanup in the town of Kittrell. Students and staff also helped the Senior Citizen's Retirement Center of Henderson move to a new location.

LBJ JCC Acquires New Building

Through a partnership with Macon County Schools, LBJ JCC has been granted permission to occupy a vacant elementary school building close to the main campus. Known as the South Campus, this newest expansion effort will eventually house the entire education department, Facilities Maintenance trade and Culinary Arts trade.

LBJ Students Compete in Race

Four LBJ students competed in the annual Macon County Greenway 5K Run. Terrill Morris sprinted to a 22:17 finish, and Randall Murphy followed at 24:37. Morris walked away with the second-place trophy, and Murphy received a medal for third place in the 20- to 24-year-old age bracket.

Oconaluftee Students Meet Bob Dole

Velor Hariston and Shamona Peterson met former Sen. Bob Dole as he campaigned for his wife, Elizabeth (Republican candidate for U.S. Senate). The students voted that day and shared concerns and hopes with Mr. Dole.

Oconaluftee Student Succeeds with Park Service

Teddy Thomas, former Oconaluftee JCC student, earned his GED and completed training in the Building Maintenance trade in September. He continued his training with the National Park Service on a 16-week co-op job and was then hired as a full-time employee.

Schenck Lends a Hand To Make a Difference

Schenck JCC students participated in "Make a Difference Day." Landscaping students planted shrubs at the Allison Deaver House. Eighteen students and two staff worked 81 hours to complete the job. Other activities included a two-mile cleanup on Hwy. 64 and a bike rally educating children about bike safety. Twelve students also worked with the Chamber of Commerce at the Halloween Fest.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bamberg Hosts Dinner

Bamberg JCC invited people from the Orangeburg, Bamberg and Barnwell County Disabilities and Special Needs agencies to arts-and-crafts activities and dinner at the center. Student Government Association committees directed traffic, seated guests and helped them navigate the center.

Bamberg JCC Honored for Civic Involvement

Bamberg JCC was honored for its 2002 community service at the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. The center was recognized for employee and student participation in community events, as well as assisting local groups with community service projects.

TENNESSEE

Jacobs Creek Students Practice Trades

The Painting instructor and seven students worked with Sullivan County Parks and Recreation to paint shelters at Observation Knob County Park. The Cement Masonry instructor and students started a project with the Abingdon Senior Citizens forming sidewalks. Other trades involved are Heavy Equipment Operator and Carpentry. Heavy Equipment Operator students and instructors are close to completing the Sheriff's Department Training Program.

Jacobs Creek Hosts Breakfast

The Community Relations Executive Committee prepared food for and served about 200 people at the semi-annual Community Relations breakfast. Proceeds from the event go toward college scholarships and to help provide activities for students who stay on center during Christmas break.

Memphis Students Volunteer at Cancer Walk

Memphis JCC volunteered at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" Cancer Walk. Students helped set up and man the booths.

Memphis JCC Observes 'Red Ribbon Week'

Memphis JCC students and staff involved 13 organizations and 26 representatives in observation of "Red Ribbon Week" to increase awareness of and commitment to a drug-free life. The theme was "Working Toward a Drug-Free Community."

DIRECTOR

ASK THE

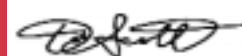
Q: Why does Job Corps help students attain their high school diplomas or GEDs?

A: Job Corps is all about helping our students achieve success. Offering high school diploma and GED programs is just one way of doing this.

A student who earns a high school diploma or GED generally is able to land a better job and earn a higher income than someone without one. Job Corps offers students the chance to be trained in a vocational trade, as well as receive a high school diploma or GED. We believe this combination will lead our students to successful careers.

We know having a high school diploma or GED increases career opportunities for our graduates. Our Job Corps centers make it a priority to create and foster partnerships with local high schools and school systems. We are also constantly improving ways to prepare our students mentally and emotionally for the GED test. Our instructors offer practice exams and tutoring to get students ready for the actual exam.

The opportunities abound with our high school diploma and GED programs, and we, as well as our students, could not be more excited about that.



Don Scott

